

MEETING OF THE CITY OF RUSHVILLE, INDIANA COMMON COUNCIL

JUNE 16, 2020

6:00 P.M.

CALL TO ORDER: The Common Council of the City of Rushville met on the above date and time at 330 North Main Street Suite 200 Rushville Indiana. Mayor Pavey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: The Pledge to the Flag was recited by those present.

PRAYER: Councilman Berkemeier led those present in prayer.

ROLL CALL: Bob Bridges, Brad Berkemeier, Elton Marzon, and Aaron Gurley answered roll call. Mike Daubenspeck was not present. Also present was City Attorney, Tracy Newhouse.

MINUTES: Bridges moved to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2020 meeting as presented. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Pavey reported the following:

1. Council has received phone calls regarding rusty water. Pavey will check into the issue. He gave a copy of utility board appointments to Council.
2. We are getting close to where we were on the Taff building before the issue with the sprinkler system.
3. Bill boards that are on City property were damaged in the recent wind storm. The billboard company will need to have conversations with Carmen Clark as to what they need to do to move forward.
4. We opened City Center doors for normal business yesterday. A shield has been placed at Carla's desk. Anyone entering City Center must wear a mask and Carla is taking their temperatures.

CLERK-TREASURER'S REPORT: Copley reported that they received payment on weed liens in the amount of \$5,695.00. She said she was also pleased to receive the spring property tax installment. It was \$57,012.86 less than the 2019 spring settlement.

Resolution 2020-31 Adding Money Back to Appropriations – Copley said this was missed getting put on the agenda and asked Council for their consideration. Berkemeier moved to approve Resolution 2020-31. Gurley seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Council President Berkemeier commended Council on recent conversations and said he hopes they continue. He gave Councilman Gurley praise for taking initiative regarding the water complaint issue. Berkemeier said he recently attended a prayer

meeting at the Police Department organized by Mark Mathews. He encouraged everyone to keep law enforcements in their thoughts and prayers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Stellar Designation** – Mayor Pavey said there is a lot of earth work. We should see quite a bit of movement on the trail in July.
- **Amphitheater/Park Board** – Concerts have been moved to August and September.
- **APC/BZA** – The May report was emailed. There will be an administrative review tomorrow.
- **Housing** – Earth work continues.
- **ECDC** – McCane reported they are trying to get back to normal since the Covid-19. We have been having conversations with a company looking to grow in this area. They are in need of 40,000 square feet. We will continue to work with them. Trying to find existing space is our biggest challenge.
- **Emerson Abatement** - Alan Grodrian was present via Zoom to answer questions regarding Emerson's tax abatement. Berkemeier made a motion to approve Emerson's CF1's. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Fire – Chief Munson reported that they have relaxed the Covid-19 rules. They are allowing family visits, the doors are open, and they have removed partitions.

Code and Building Compliance – Director Jenkins reported that he is working with Comcate on a citizen portal that will be attached to the City's webpage for citizens to report concerns or complaints. They will be able to follow the progress of their concern if desired. They will be given a case number. An email will be sent to the department that it involves. The Mayor will be able to view all complaints. The others will just have access to their department only. Once resolved an email will be sent. They hope to have an app in the future, but one is not currently available. The Department Heads will receive training. Mayor Pavey said we should encourage the public to use this system. The launch date is July 6.

Animal – Director Hanna said they are not going to lift their Covid-19 restrictions until they move. There will be a meeting Thursday at 2:00 to go over the wrap up of the new facility.

Street – Commissioner Miller said they are finishing up cleaning up the mess from the storm damage. They are also working on sidewalks.

Councilman Berkemeier and Mayor Pavey said they have received positive comments regarding the cleanup from the storm damage.

Police – Chief Tucker reported that Officer Strobel and K-9, Reba, will graduate Friday. They will report to work together Saturday.

Park - Director Burklow reported that Vogels will start on the labyrinth Thursday. The fitness equipment is scheduled to be installed next week. We are ordering playground equipment for Stellar projects.

CITIZEN CONCERNS/COMMENTS: Councilman Gurley said he has received several complaints regarding rusty water issues. He passed out copies of emails he received. He said one of the citizen's biggest issues was that it seems that their complaints are pretty much dismissed as quickly as they are made. He said it appears that the majority of complaints seem to be in District 3. He said he spoke with Les Day. He explained that some of the water mains are causing the issues.

Berkemeier said we need to have someone from the utilities available at our meetings so some of our issues can be addressed. He said telling people that it is just old infrastructure will only work for a while.

Gurley said it doesn't make sense that some have an issue but someone next door or across the street do not. Gurley said people are just not satisfied with the quality of service

Pavey said we asked if we could have an unbiased company come in and do an audit of our system. Then Covid hit us. He will go to Thursday's meeting and make a recommendation to hire a company to audit our system. Pavey said he is disappointed that the utility department does not regularly attend department meetings. We expect customer satisfaction. He will encourage someone from the utilities to come to our meetings. We want unification with Council and the utility board. Gurley said he will attend Thursday's utility meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Street Light Project** – This should be completed by the end of the month.
2. **Ordinance 2020-8 Downtown Parking Amendment** – Berkemeier moved to approve Ordinance 2020-8. Gurley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Rushville Revitalization Program 1900 N Main (formerly Big O Tire)** – We would like to get this property back on the tax role. We are going through Ara to get a business plan. We had one party beginning to go through the process with Ara and then we were hit with Covid-19. So we put it on the back burner. Now 2 more are interested. We are waiting to see if someone comes forward with the first move. Ara will score the business plans.
4. **City of Rushville Public Giving and Community Improvement Corporation appointments to Board of Directors** – This should be ready before the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Resolution 2020-28-13th Street Culvert (City and School)** – Berkemeier moved to approve Resolution 2020-28. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.
2. **Ordinance 2020-17 Naming Downtown Alleys** – Pavey said this is something we need to have in place if we want to do alley paving. Marzon moved to approve Ordinance 2020-17. Gurley seconded the motion. Motion carried.
3. **Riverside Park and Public Gatherings** – There has been quite a bit of discussion regarding renting out shelters and the amphitheater. People must be aware of the number of people that are allowed to gather and must abide by the social distancing per the Governor's guidelines. Gurley said he would always refer to Dan on the operational piece. Burklow said any decisions regarding large gatherings needs to wait until July 28th. He has told the little league that the 28th will be the time a decision will be made on fall little leagues. Everybody should be held to this July 28th date to have large gatherings. We can put a placeholder in place for planning purposes knowing that they may have to cancel depending on what happens the 28th. Pavey said he is agreeable with moving forward assuming there are no spikes in the Coronavirus. Burklow said we just need to be responsible.
4. **Coronavirus Update** – City Center is open with some restrictions.

CLAIMS: Bridges moved to approve the claims as presented. Marzon seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ITEMS NOT KNOWN IN ADVANCE: None.

ADJOURN: There was no further business to come before Council; Berkemeier moved to adjourn. Marzon seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:34p.m.